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## Educational Writings

### I. REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

*Lipps' Daily Lesson Plan Book for Vocational Instructors.*<sup>1</sup>—The vocational instructor looking for a convenient guide for the analysis of his lesson problems should find this book helpful. The sheets are planned in blank form so that the instructor may record under the proper headings the date, the subject, and the subdivision of the subject which is being taken care of by the lesson assignment, the purpose of the lesson, the grouping of subject-matter with methods of presentation, and the reference readings on the subject-matter. In all, space is provided for the planning of 222 lessons. Several type or sample plans are worked out in detail for lessons in the household arts, agriculture, and farm mechanics.

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*Teaching by Projects.*<sup>2</sup>—The foregoing is the title of another late book on the subject of project teaching. There is set forth in the book an earnest and able plea for the reorganization of the subject-matter in our school curricula. The author quite correctly shows that our tendency is now and has been for a long time to present the material in the several subjects in a loose, hodge-podge, encyclopedic fashion, and that this procedure can lead only to waste and inefficient results. His suggested remedy lies in organizing the subject-matter around large, meaningful topics or large units of study. One feels on reading the book that the author has made his case quite clear, but there is also the feeling that such a treatment of subject-matter is not necessarily "project teaching" and that there is something more necessary to remedy the evils of school-teaching than a logical organization of the subject-matter and a thorough mastery of the same by the teacher. The psychological arrangement according to the way a child learns a subject should be as important a factor in the organization of subject-matter as the nature of the subject itself.

In discussing project teaching, much depends upon the definition of project. In this text we find the term used synonymously with "large units of study." Although the author recognizes that project may mean an activity on the part of the child which he undertakes "at his own behest when he is pressed by a felt

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<sup>1</sup> OSCAR H. LIPPS, *Daily Lesson Plan Book for Vocational Instructors*. Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Bruce Publishing Co., 1919. Pp. 65. \$0.80.

<sup>2</sup> CHARLES A. McMURRY, *Teaching by Projects*. New York: Macmillan Co., 1920. Pp. vii+257. \$1.32.